

# **Chapter 1: Introduction to the 2005 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume II**

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This chapter provides the background and outline of Volume II of the *2005 South Florida Environmental Report* (SFER). Whereas Volume I of the 2005 SFER focuses on the state of water resources and related natural systems within South Florida, Volume II focuses on the state of the District's projects (activities with start and end dates) and processes (continuing activities) in protecting and restoring those water and related resources. Volume II is a consolidation of eight annual reports previously separately prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District).

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## **LEGAL AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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Volume II is prepared as specified by Chapter 2004-53, Laws of Florida, which was passed during the 2004 legislative session. This legislation calls for the SFWMD to complete a pilot project by February 15, 2005 that consolidates annual reports submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor or the Legislature. This legislation is intended to encourage better, more efficient reporting of water management district activities, and to allow easier access to such information by policymakers, stakeholders and the public.

The District also included one additional report that is submitted annually to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) which, while not falling under the exact criteria of this legislation, does fit its intent. The FDEP's approval was sought and received for inclusion of this report, which is the District Water Management Plan Annual Report.

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## **VOLUME II OBJECTIVES**

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Objectives for the development of Volume II are increased reporting efficiency, quality, and accessibility. Over time, a series of annual reports has been required of Florida's water management districts, either legislatively or by the FDEP. These reporting requirements are designed to document progress in achieving implementation of plans developed to address areas of responsibility on a regional or District-wide basis. While the reports are integral to project management reporting and central to the District's functions, over time several of these reporting requirements have developed significant overlaps. These overlaps are largely due to implementation projects being intentionally designed to serve more than one function. For example, a CERP project in the Lake Okeechobee Region that requires capital expenditure may have water supply benefits and be part of a strategy outlined in the DWMP. Therefore, that single project may be described and redescribed in slightly different ways in each of the respective annual reports. In order to remove this redundancy, Volume II includes an Access™ database of

project descriptions that are referenced in the Volume II chapters, resulting in projects and processes only being described once. This also allows more comprehensive project descriptions than were previously found in individual reports and enables efficiencies in project description, information gathering, compilation, review, printing, and distribution. Volume II replaces the previous eight annual reports, and is designed to yield a better, more efficient report, making information more accessible to policymakers, stakeholders, and members of the public.

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## VOLUME II CONTENT

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Volume II consolidates the following eight reports that had previously been prepared as separate publications into Chapters 2 through 9 herein. This facilitates comparative review with previous years' reports.

- **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Annual Report:** An implementation and financial summary for the previous fiscal year, and a budget for the current year for CERP, which is the framework and guide for the restoration, protection, and preservation of the South Florida ecosystem.
- **Lake Okeechobee Annual Report:** Summarizes water quality and habitat conditions of Lake Okeechobee and its watershed; implementation activities of the past year, including the status of the Lake Okeechobee Construction Project; challenges; and unresolved issues.
- **Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program:** Provides projected five-year financial costs and water supply benefits for implementation of the District's regional water supply plans, as well as a status report of the water resource development efforts for the previous year.
- **Alternative Water Supply (AWS) Annual Report:** An annual summary report of the AWS projects funded by the SFWMD, including the quantity of water made available, SFWMD funding, and total cost.
- **Everglades Forever Act (EFA) Annual Financial Report:** Outlines the revenues and expenditures related to Everglades Forever Act projects, including the Everglades Construction Project and the Long Term Plan.
- **District Water Management Plan (DWMP) Annual Report:** An implementation status report for the previous year for the DWMP, including activity summaries and performance measures that address the District's four areas of responsibility.
- **Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan:** A progress report and presentation of projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act for land acquisition, water resource development, stormwater management, water body restoration, recreational facility construction, public access improvements, and invasive plant control.
- **Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan:** An annual report of the District's capital projects, covering all District programs, which includes project-level detail and shows projected expenditures and corresponding funding sources for a five-year period.

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## CONSOLIDATED PROJECT REPORT DATABASE

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District projects and processes are often designed to serve multiple functions. In the previous reports that Volume II is replacing, these projects and processes had to be described and re-described for every function in every annual report they served. The Consolidated Project Report Database is designed to facilitate single project (and process) descriptions to serve all the projects and processes made in Volume II of the 2005 SFER. Data are stored in widely available Access™ software, which enables multiple search and sort routines. Menu options are available for added data entry efficiency.

The fields contained in this database are the following numbered project or process attributes. Details of this database are described in Appendix 1-1 of this volume.

- 1) Title:
- 2) Type:
- 3) Lead Agency:
- 4) Lead SFWMD Organization #:
- 5) Lead Program:
- 6) Related Program:
- 7) Partners:
- 8) Manager:
- 9) State Reporting Category:
- 10) Last Updated:
- 11) Description:
- 12) Area(s) of Responsibility (if Water Supply, then includes water made available):
- 13) Location (street address, county, planning region):
- 14) Legislative Reference:
- 15) Square Footage/Physical Description:
- 16) Land Requirement:
- 17) Objective:
- 18) Historical Background/Need:
- 19) End Products (scheduled products for processes):
- 20) Major Water Bodies Impacted:
- 21) Expected Completion Month/Year:
- 22) Associated Projects/Project Linkage:
- 23) Major milestones completed in last fiscal year:
- 24) Milestones in next fiscal year:
- 25) Expenditures in last fiscal year:
- 26) Total project cost:
- 27) Resource Performance Measures:
- 28) Project Performance Measures:
- 29) Alternative(s):
- 30) Major uncertainties:
- 31) District Financial Summary (all for five-year period):
- 32) Funding Source:
- 33) Report References (including Florida Forever Goal if applicable):

An added advantage of using this database to communicate project information, instead of the project tables in the previous reports, is the sorting capability. If the reader wants to see, for example, all the Capital Improvement Flood Protection projects in Collier County (and all the information associated with those projects), those projects can be quickly identified along with

their associated information. In this way, the database offers added flexibility and utility with regard to information and project management. Brief instructions on navigating the database are presented in Appendix 1-2 of this volume. The Consolidated Project Report Database is included as Appendix 1-3 of this volume.